222 NORTH 20TH STREET, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 P 215.448.1200 F 215.448.1235 www.fi.edu

PUBLIC RELATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Stefanie Santo 215-448-1152

GO 4TH & LEARN *ABOUT SCIENCE*
FREE GENERAL ADMISSION TO THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE
AS PART OF *WAWA WELCOME AMERICA!* FESTIVITIES
MONDAY, JUNE 29

BOOK READINGS LED BY MAYOR MICHAEL NUTTER
THE HISTORY OF WAWA AND HANDS-ON DAIRY EXHIBIT
THE SCIENCE OF FIREWORKS EXPLOSIVE LIVE SHOW

Philadelphia, PA June 18, 2015—Go forth and learn about science at The Franklin Institute during Philadelphia's annual blowout celebration of our nation's independence: Wawa Welcome America! Festival. New this year, The Franklin Institute offers FREE general admission on **Monday, June 29** courtesy of Wawa, with special programming and interactive activities**,** book readings led by Mayor Michael Nutter and live science shows—including the explosive demonstration of how fireworks sparkle, whistle and show colors in **The Science of Fireworks.** Free general admission to The Franklin Institute includes three floors of hands-on exhibits, plus the award-winning exhibition *Your Brain*, and the option to upgrade to the summer special exhibitions: *The Art of the Brick* and *Genghis Khan: Bring the Legend to Life* ($10 per exhibit for adults; $9 for children), or a show the Tuttleman IMAX® Theater ($6 per person) or Franklin 3D Theater ($4 per person). The Wawa Welcome America! Festival is an annual multi-day celebration of America's birthday in America's birthplace. Free activities take place all throughout Philadelphia beginning June 27 leading up to the largest free concert and fireworks in America along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway on Saturday, July 4.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE WAWA WELCOME AMERICA! FESTIVAL: GO 4TH AND LEARN AT THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE ON MONDAY, JUNE 29 INCLUDE:

- **FREE general admission** includes access to three floors of interactive exhibits, special programming and explosive live science shows, hands-on demonstrations, solar viewing in the Joel N. Bloom Observatory, and a show in the Fels Planetarium.
  - 9:30am – 5pm
- **The Science of Fireworks**: Discover the science behind what makes fireworks sparkle, whistle, and have colors during five explosive demonstrations of the popular live science show!
  - 10:30am, 12pm, 1:30pm, 3pm, 4:30pm; Demonstration Theater
- **Mayor Michael Nutter to lead book readings** to all visitors plus 250 young Police Athletic League (PAL) Center students.

    - 10:05am Mayor Michael Nutter
    - 10:25am Chris Gheysens, President and CEO, Wawa
    - 10:45am Matt O'Donnell, Anchor, 6ABC
    - 11:05am Larry Dubinski, President & CEO, The Franklin Institute
- **Book giveaways** to the first 800 children who participate in the readings.
- **Wawa's barn-inspired exhibit** displaying Wawa history, photos, dairy farmers explaining the science behind dairy farming, and a hands-on Cow milking game in Wisdom Hall.
- **Rooftop Solar Observing** in the Joel N. Bloom Observatory (weather permitting)
    - 10:30am – 4pm
- Demonstrations of **Quantum Levitation**
    - 12-1pm; 2-3pm
- **3D Printing**: Learn how this phenomenal technology works and how it's transforming our world.
    - 10:30am-4pm
- **Heart and Eye Dissections** in The Giant Heart
    - Eye Dissections (11:15am, 3pm); Heart Dissection (12:45pm)

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

Located in the heart of Philadelphia, The Franklin Institute is a renowned and innovative leader in the field of science and technology learning, as well as a dynamic center of activity. Pennsylvania's most visited museum, it is dedicated to creating a passion for learning about science by offering access to hands-on science education. For more information, visit www.fi.edu.